

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kiyokawa et al. (5,289,263) in view of Mimura et al. (5,880,816).

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Rejection of Claims 1 and 2 as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview dated May 4, 2008. As noted during the Interview and as admitted by the Examiner, at least the disclosure provided on paragraph [0043] provides adequate written description support for limitations referred to by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Rejection of Claims 1 and 2 as being unpatentable over Kiyokawa et al. in view of Mimura et al.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the suggestions for claim amendments provided during the interview. Accordingly, claims 1 and 2 are amended to explicitly recite that the apparatus sequentially loads outer peripheral data corresponding to one round of the wafer data without stopping the motor. As agreed to by the Examiner during the interview, this amendment should overcome the rejections based on the presently cited references.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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